

THE GOLDEN AGE RETURNS

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

Third & Fourth Conjugations:
Passive Voice of the Present System

WHEELLOCK: CHAPTER 21

This passage comes from the Eclogues, a collection of ten short bucolic poems by Vergil. The fourth eclogue, which depicts the return of a golden age, is sometimes called "Messianic" because Christians in the Middle Ages identified the puer of the poem with Christ.

Nunc aetās magna atque nova incipit. Puer nāscitur ac
gēns aurea venit. Mundus gravī metū liberābitur. Ille puer
deōrum vītā accipiet deōsque videbit, et ipse videbitur
ab illīs. Mundum reget antīquīs virtūtibus. Simul atque
claudēs et facta parentis legere et virtutem scīre poterit, agrī
beātī dulcēs fructūs omnibus hominibus parābunt. Re-
manēbunt tamen pauca vītā quae hominēs temptāre
mare nāvibus, quae hominēs cingere urbēs mūrīs iubēbunt.
Erunt etiam altera bella, atque iterum Trōiam magnus
erit Achillēs. Ubi autem hunc puerum virum fēcerit
fortis aetās, maria relinquuntur ā vectoribus, nec nautae
pecūniae causā mercēs mutābunt. Rōbustus agricola taurōs
iugō liberābit; nōn rāstrīs tangētur humus; omnis terra
omnia feret.

—adapted from Vergil, *Eclogues* 4.4–39

VOCABULARY:

nāscor, nāscī, nātus sum: to be born, spring forth
aureus, -a, -um: golden
accipio, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptus: to receive
simul (adverb): at the same time (+ atque = as soon as)

parēs, -entis, m. or f.: parent
temptō (1): to try (out), test
cingō, -ere, cīnxī, cīnctus: to gird, encircle
mūrus, -ī, m.: wall

Trōiam: accusative of place to which

Achillēs, -is, m.: Achilles, greatest Greek hero during the 10-year
war against the Trojans

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fortis aetās: strong stretch of years, i.e. mature age
vector, -ōris, m.: passenger, seafarer
merx, mercis, f.: merchandise, goods
rōbustus, -a, -um: strong, hardy
taurus, -ī, m.: bull
iugum, -ī, n.: yoke
rāstrum, -ī, n.: rake, toothed hoe
humus, -ī, f.: ground, earth, soil
ferō, ferre, tuli, lātus: to bear, produce (feret = future tense)

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